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March 30, 2015

Senator Beth Bye
Representative Toni Walker
Members of the Appropriations Committee

Re: Testimony in favor of SB816 –*An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula*

I am writing to you as a twelve-year member of the Regional School District 17 Board of Education, as a parent, and as a Haddam taxpayer. As you are aware, Haddam is the 10th most underfunded ECS town in the state of Connecticut (42%). With the closing of Connecticut Yankee Power plant many years ago, our town grand list dropped significantly. This dramatically increased the tax burden on residents. The town of Haddam's ECS funding has never been adjusted. Clearly, this goes against the intent of ECS funding which is to help local communities provide a fair and equitable education for students. Every year, budget season on the Board of Education gets harder and harder. Without a large tax base, our residents bear the costs of our schools. While certainly it is the responsibility of the community to do so, it would be very appreciated if our ECS funding rate could be adjusted so the town of Haddam can receive its appropriate share of said funding.

Please consider fixing this oversight. We would truly appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

Amy Jacques-Purdy
Region 17 Board of Education
(2003-present)